

Project Name:

Rebuild the Saltese trestle bridge and provide public utilities, rural access and economic activity in Mineral County

Recipient:

Montana Nightriders Snowmobile Club

Address:

Box 420242, Haugan, MT 59842

Amount Requested:

\$1,000,000

Project Explanation:

Funding for this project will facilitate a local nonprofit organization of volunteers to rebuild and rehab the Saltese trestle bridge located in Mineral County. The bridge is a critical piece of infrastructure hosting four critical public utility easements for power and fiber optic connectivity and is a major thoroughfare for residents and economic driver for winter tourism. The bridge, however, is in structural decay with large pieces of concrete often falling away from the bridge. Mineral County has persistent poverty and is a hotbed of unemployment. 90% of the land ownership here is federal or state lands therefore limiting the ability for the county to collect revenue on much of the land. Mineral County heavily relies on winter tourism by recreational vehicle and outdoor sports enthusiasts. Rebuilding the bridge will ensure long-term economic viability for the county and stable connectivity and power for residents and businesses.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2601

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Mineral County Saltese Trestle Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Mineral County Saltese Trestle Bridge Rehabilitation Project in Mineral County in Fiscal Year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Montana Nightriders Snowmobile Club, located at Box 420242, Haugan, MT 59842.

The funding would be used to facilitate a local nonprofit organization of volunteers to rebuild and rehab the Saltese trestle bridge located in Mineral County. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the bridge is a critical piece of infrastructure hosting four critical public utility easements for power and fiber optic connectivity and is a major thoroughfare for residents and economic driver for winter tourism. The bridge, however, is in structural decay with large pieces of concrete often falling away from the bridge. Mineral County has been described as having persistent poverty and being a hotbed of unemployment. 90% of the land ownership here is Federal or State lands therefore limiting the ability for the county to collect revenue on much of the land. Rebuilding the bridge will ensure long-term economic viability for the county and stable connectivity and power for residents and businesses.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Ryan K. Zinke

Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress